

**Amendments to the specification**

Please amend the passage at page 1 lines 25 to 32 as follows:

An alternative proposal is to provide a packet header with information optically encoded at a lower data rate than the data rate of the packet payload. This enables opto-electric conversion circuitry to be employed which has a lower detection bandwidth ~~that~~ than that which would be required to carry out opto-electric conversion of the packet payload. Thus, low cost electronics can be used to enable the header to be read for routing purposes, and high speed conversion is required only when the payload data is to be read, at the destination node for the particular signal. The invention is concerned specifically with optical data packets of this type.